

**From:** [Rebecca Mayer](#) on behalf of [R6ASK@epa.gov](mailto:R6ASK@epa.gov)  
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*(See attached file: R6 Daily News Digest 04-24-13.pdf)*

1 - Watchdogs Warned of Chemical-Plant Oversight Before Blast, Bloomberg, 04/24/2013  
<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-04-24/watchdogs-warned-of-chemical-plant-oversight-before-blast.html>

In the months before last week's deadly fertilizer plant explosion in Texas, U.S. government watchdogs criticized federal oversight of facilities that make or store dangerous chemicals. Agencies from the Department of Homeland Security to the Chemical Safety Board were faulted for taking too long to act or failing to persuade regulators to impose stricter safety rules.

2 - Range Resources can seek defamation case against Parker County landowner, court says, Ft. Worth Star Telegram, 04/23/2013

<http://www.star-telegram.com/2013/04/23/4798228/range-resources-can-seek-defamation.html>

Range Resources Corp. won a Texas appeals court's permission to pursue defamation and business disparagement claims against a Parker County landowner who accused the company of fouling his water well. In a ruling Tuesday, the 2nd Court of Appeals in Fort Worth let stand two of Range's claims against Steven Lipsky, who sued the company in June 2011 and was countersued a month later.

3 - Fracking disclosure site has 'serious deficiencies,' study says, Dallas Morning News, 04/23/2013

<http://www.dallasnews.com/business/energy/20130423-fracking-disclosure-site-has-serious-deficiencies-study-says.ece>

A government-mandated website on which oil and gas companies list chemicals they pump into the ground at hydraulic fracturing sites has "serious deficiencies," according to a study by Harvard Law School released Tuesday. The study found FracFocus.org lacked transparency and gave companies "overly broad" authority to determine what they can exclude in the name of trade secrets. The report also asserted there was little to no oversight by the website or the 11 states that require companies to file disclosures there.

4 - How Will Texas Explosion Impact Chemical Security Laws?, The National Journal, 04/23/2013

<http://www.nationaljournal.com/nationalsecurity/how-will-texas-explosion-impact-chemical-security-laws-20130423>

The fertilizer plant explosion that leveled homes and killed at least 14 people last week in West, Texas, demonstrates the need for tougher chemical security laws, some Democrats say. Whether such proposals will have any legs on Capitol Hill remains uncertain.

5 - ADEQ continuing to monitor Lake Conway, THV 11, 04/23/2013

<http://www.thv11.com/news/article/261745/2/ADEQ-continuing-to-monitor-Lake-Conway>

The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality continues to monitor water quality in and around Lake Conway to track any potential environmental impact from an oil spill that started in Mayflower on March 29. Since early April, ADEQ has taken samples twice a week at a number of locations in the cove and main body of the lake. In all, 20 sites are currently being sampled by the Department. The sites were chosen with the input of ADEQ scientists as well as those at other state agencies, such as the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

6 - Two local plants on list of repeated breakdowns, pollution, The Port Arthur News, 04/24/2013

<http://panews.com/local/x1097433558/Two-local-plants-on-list-of-repeated-breakdowns-pollution>

A number of environmental groups are banding together in their bid for an investigation of federal and Texas regulators' response to repeated breakdowns at the facilities. The Environmental Integrity Project and nine community and public interest organizations, including Community In Power and Development

Association in Port Arthur, sent a letter to the USEPA Inspector General regarding the claims.

7 - EPA on Keystone XL: Significant Climate Impacts from Tar Sands Pipeline, Yahoo News, 04/24/2013

<http://news.yahoo.com/epa-keystone-xl-significant-climate-impacts-tar-sands-001100447.html>

In a draft assessment of the proposed Keystone XL pipeline, consultants for the U.S. State Department judged that building it would have no significant impact on greenhouse gas emissions. Why? Because the analysts assumed the tar sands oil would find a way out with or without the new pipeline. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency does not agree. Keystone XL's ability to carry an additional 830,000 barrels of tar sands oil per day is vital to expanded production of the tarry crude in Alberta

8 - Small sequester cuts in EPA grant program mean big headache for state regulators, Greenwire, 04/24/2013

<http://www.eenews.net/Greenwire/2013/04/24/1>

At a glance, U.S. EPA's plan to cut an \$11.5 million grant program in an effort to meet the sequestration mandate doesn't look like much given the agency's \$8.5 billion budget. But that's a lot of money to state and local air regulators who have been counting on it.

9 - NM issues \$838K civil penalty in emissions case, Carlsbad Current Argus, 04/24/2013

[http://www.currentargus.com/ci\\_23092432/nm-issues-838k-civil-penalty-emissions-case](http://www.currentargus.com/ci_23092432/nm-issues-838k-civil-penalty-emissions-case)

A natural gas processing company will have to pay a civil penalty of more than \$838,000 as part of a settlement with the New Mexico Environment Department. The department announced Tuesday that it has entered into a settlement agreement with Enterprise Products Operating LLC over numerous alleged emissions violations at 31 different sites operated by the company and its subsidiaries.

10 - Many Americans Breathing Cleaner Air: Report, U.S. News and World Report, 04/24/2013

<http://health.usnews.com/health-news/news/articles/2013/04/24/many-americans-breathing-cleaner-air-report>

Although many Americans are now breathing cleaner air, others are living in cities that are more polluted than they were a decade ago, a new report shows. "The long-term trend is positive and headed to much cleaner air," said report author Janice Nolen, assistant vice president of national policy and advocacy for the American Lung Association.

11 - Texas Southern University, EPA form partnership, Ultimate Bellaire, 04/21/2013

<http://ultimatebellaire.com/stories/501806-texas-southern-university-epa-form-partnership>

Texas Southern University has signed a partnership Memorandum of Understanding with the Environmental Protection Agency. "Texas Southern University has entered into a significant agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency Region 6 that will help train qualified professionals in environmental policy, economics and several areas of science, business and technology. The Memorandum of Understanding will focus on bringing innovative strategies to the forefront to assure an adequate supply of highly trained and skilled personnel for the accomplishment of environmental research, policy and program development," according to a press release from Texas Southern University.

12 - Texas buildings, from San Antonio to Fort Hood, recognized by EPA for energy savings, Houston Chronicle, 04/23/2013

<http://blog.chron.com/txpotomac/2013/04/texas-buildings-from-san-antonio-to-fort-hood-recognized-by-epa-for-energy-savings/>

Yesterday, the Environmental Protection Agency announced the winners of its third-annual "battle of the buildings" Energy Star National Building Competition. 3,000 institutions from around the country competed to see which could reduce its energy use the most in a year, and several Texans came out on top. The winner of the competition was an elementary school from New Jersey, cutting its cost by 52 percent. Following close behind in second place was the AAFES Fort Hood Warrior Way Express Store, which cut its energy cost by 48.5 percent, saving over \$17,000 in energy costs.

13 - States Detail Competing Priorities For Next EPA Emissions Transport Plan, Inside EPA,

04/23/2013

<http://insideepa.com/201304242432001/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/states-detail-competing-priorities-for-next-epa-emissions-transport-plan/menu-id-95.html>

States are outlining competing priorities at meetings with EPA on policies for curbing interstate transport of air pollution, with eastern states seeking strict controls on industrial plants in upwind states while officials in other states are pushing options that could reduce their burdens under a future agency air transport plan.

14 - EPA Inspector General Launching Investigation Into Stalled NPL Listings, Inside EPA, 04/23/2013  
<http://insideepa.com/201304232431830/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/epa-inspector-general-launching-investigation-into-stalled-npl-listings/menu-id-95.html>

EPA's Office of Inspector General (IG) is initiating a study to uncover why EPA has a backlog of sites that have been proposed to be added to Superfund's National Priorities List (NPL), the list of the worst contaminated sites in the country, but have never moved forward.